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The vital resource of the Ag Industry

Washington • winter/spring edition 2003-2004

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JANUARY 13 | 14 | 15 2004

# 2004 SPOKANE AG EXPO

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Look for your official **Ag Expo magazine** in  
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For info: [www.agshow.org](http://www.agshow.org)

*Produced By: Ag Bureau of the  
Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce*

think **BIG**

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On The Cover

Photo courtesy of Western States. For more, see page 32.  
Inset photo courtesy of Merricks. For more, see page 29.

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# “Think Big!”

Spokane Ag Expo January 13, 14 & 15

This year's Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum are BIGGER and better than ever! January 13, 14 and 15, in Spokane, Wash., over 8,000 farmers and ranchers are expected to attend this three-day event. Highlights of the 2004 Expo include:

The Inland Northwest's Largest Farm Equipment Show - Over 250 exhibitors fill the Veteran's Memorial Arena, Ag Trade and Convention Centers in beautiful downtown Spokane.

50th Annual Pacific Northwest Farm Forum - The 2004 show is the 50th Golden Anniversary for the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, which produces all the seminars and main speaker events at Ag Expo. Celebration plans are in the works for the golden anniversary!

Over 80 Pacific Northwest Farm Forum Seminars - Including seminars on marketing, crop production, transition planning, and farm management. Pesticide re-certification credits can be earned at selected seminars. This is the region's most comprehensive workshop forum.

Health, Safety and Security Section - Spokane Ag Expo is devoting an entire section to farm health, safety and security. For the past several years, the show has featured a variety of farm safety programs but the 2004 show will devote a full section pertaining to health, safety and security. Located at the east end of the Spokane Ag Trade Center, it will feature a wide variety of farm family health-related exhibits that will have value to virtually everyone who comes to the show.

Ag Technology Showcase by SIRTI - Featuring the latest in cutting edge technologies, 5:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel ballroom. The intention of SIRTI (Spokane Intercollegiate Research & Technology Institute) is to provide a good overview of paradigm-changing research in the Inland Northwest. On a quarterly basis SIRTI presents these breakthrough technologies to the public.

Bioenergy Pavilion - Ag Expo for 2004 includes the "Bioenergy Pavilion at Ag Expo". Bioenergy is renewable energy produced from organic material. Organic matter is either used directly as a fuel or processed into liquids and gases. An area within the Ag Expo show will be dedicated for agencies, associations, and private entities to present information to show attendees. The goal is to provide the latest information to attendees. Areas covered include biodiesel, dedicated crops, anaerobic digestion, ethanol, co-generation, and gasification. Other renewable energy topics include solar, fuel cells, geothermal, water, and wind.

Idaho Gem, U of I's Cloned Mule - Tuesday Only - The first cloned equine was born on May 5, 2003 at the University of Idaho. The mule, which is named Idaho Gem, will appear at Ag Expo on Tuesday, January 13. A team from University of Idaho and Utah State University produced three mule clones that were born in 2003. Dr. Dirk Vanderwall, a member of the research team, will also make a seminar presentation in the Les Schwab room on Tuesday.

Beef Cattle Demonstrations & Seminars - Back by popular demand, the Expo features live beef cattle equipment demonstrations and numerous seminars. Demonstrations of livestock equipment

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## Nearly Everything U.S. Eats Will Soon Be Registered

**V**irtually every food product in the United States will soon have to be registered along with its supplier as part of the fight against terrorism.

Figuring that the best way to protect the nation's food supply is to keep better tabs on it, the government is requiring some 400,000 facilities in the United States to register themselves and their products with the Food and Drug Administration.

In addition, anyone importing food from abroad will have to give regulators advance notice before its arrival: two hours for food shipments coming across the border by truck, four hours if aboard planes or trains, and eight hours if by ship.

"We are providing critical new tools for

the FDA to identify potentially dangerous foods and to keep out food supply safe and secure," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said.

FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan said the government will continue to work with food companies to assure that the requirements do not interrupt trade.

The Bush administration last May proposed making food companies notify regulators of shipments from outside the United States by noon on the day before its arrival. The industry complained that requirement for shipments as simple as daily truckloads of fresh vegetables from Canada and Mexico would interrupt trade.

Susan Stout, vice president for Grocery Manufacturers of America, said the FDA

appears to have addressed the industry's chief concerns.

The FDA and Bureau of Customs and Border Protection also have agreed to share information on food shipments so companies will not have to duplicate their reporting.

Government officials said the registration requirements will enable them to respond more quickly to emergencies, especially if terrorists were to tamper with food in a way that would spread infectious bacteria.

Registering food suppliers and their products is expected to cost the industry \$336 million the first year, the government said. Farms generally are not covered by the rules. Those that make and sell goods such as jelly and cheese will have to register.

## EU Takes Hormone-Risk Data to WTO

**T**he European Union stands firm on its ban importing hormone-treated beef from North America. It said it would take its new proof about potential health risks to the World Trade Organization to get the United States and Canada to lift trade sanctions.

EU Health Commissioner, David Byrne, said the EU has delivered a "thorough risk assessment based on current scientific knowledge" to support its ban, thus bringing the EU into compliance with the WTO rules.

The WTO ruled in 1998 that the EU's ban was illegal because of a lack of solid scientific evidence. In retaliation, the United States and Canada impose about \$125 million worth of duties each year on European products such as French Roquefort cheese and other delicacies.

In an effort to resolve the issue, the EU began compiling data in 2001 to back up its ban. New legislation was adopted last July that bans one growth-promoting hormone and temporarily bars five others while studies continue. To comply with the WTO ruling, the EU promises regular scientific research.

## World Potato Congress To Be Held in China

**T**he 5th World Potato Congress has been rescheduled to March 24-30, 2004. The congress was postponed because of the SARS epidemic in China last April.

Lloyd Palmer, president of World Potato Congress Inc., noted that the program of events surrounding the congress will be essentially the same as earlier planned except that the golf classic is planned to be held on March 25th instead of at the end of the congress.

Registration will be held on March 24th and 25th, and the opening reception will be held on the evening of the 25th. The congress sessions as well as the trade and technology show will be held March 26-28. The potato variety exhibit will be held March 29th and the closing reception, dinner and entertainment will be held on the evening of the 29th. The farm and agricultural industry tours will be held on March 30th.

For more information visit [www.potatocongress.org](http://www.potatocongress.org). E-mail the congress office in Charlottetown, Canada at [info@potatocongress.org](mailto:info@potatocongress.org).

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## *Internet Changing the Way Agriculture Hires Employees*

**T**hey say the success of an organization depends on the quality of its people. So what is the best way to attract, find and hire the finest employees? Finding specialized and experienced ag employees is a challenge because only 3 percent of the population actually comes from a farm. Often, finding the right candidate for the right job or vice versa is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Kathryn Barkey, account manager of North America's leading agricultural employment website, AgCareers.com, suggests that many agribusinesses are now realizing the power of the Internet and that online employee searches are a great new way of finding a qualified workforce.

"Everything comes together in one spot - many companies with job opportunities and a great number of specialized employees; the result is better hiring. A wide range of businesses, DuPont, Cargill and independent farmers to name a few, have all successfully taken advantage of the employee search potential at AgCareers.com," she said.

Previously, the majority of agricultural jobs were advertised through word of mouth or in local newspapers. As a result, employers' friends and relatives often filled these positions internally. Failure to get the word out led to difficulties finding qualified employees as well as sustaining the jobseeker myth that interesting agricultural jobs are few and far between, thereby discouraging people from staying in the agriculture industry. While the agriculture industry was initially cautious to adopt the Internet, the continued success of companies like AgCareers.com proves that online job posting works. AgCareers.com, the first and largest ag employment site, has posted thousands of jobs each month with in its 6 year history and hosts over 10,000 jobseeker resumes. Companies have posted "Help Wanted" ads for positions such as general managers, scientists, veterinarians, and specialists to entry level sales positions and farm workers.

Every day, thousands of job seekers search jobs and many also subscribe to the free weekly AgCareers.com e-newsletter. For a small fee, employers can log on to the website and post jobs. They can also arrange to target qualified applicants by searching the resume database.

"We like how fast the AgCareers.com site is," says Lori Litherland, a regular user who posts job openings. "It is particularly efficient with immediate access to good quality applicants."

Barkey has firsthand experience of the ability of the Internet to bring jobs and employees together. In fact, about a year ago, she logged on to [www.farms.com/agcareers](http://www.farms.com/agcareers), posted her resume, and landed her current position with the company. "I love working with ag employers to find the best staff, and provide them staffing solutions. The Internet is a very powerful tool for employers."

Kimberly Sharman, human resource manager with Syngenta Crop Protection, a regular AgCareers.com user, sums it up best: "This is the way of the future; web based recruitment that casts a wide net for talent. It is an effective and cost efficient method to attract agricultural candidates."

AgCareers.com is a member company of the Farms.com Ltd. Farms.com Ltd. is a leading information and marketing company providing innovative solutions to the North American agriculture and food industry. The [www.farms.com](http://www.farms.com) website is one of the leading Internet destinations for agriculture with more than 8,000 users per day.

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# calendar of events

## Upcoming Calendar of Potato Events

### Jan. 6-10, 2004

National Potato Council Annual Meeting, Moon Palace Resort, Cancun, Mexico.  
Contact John Keeling at 202-682-9456 or johnkeeling52@aol.com or visit  
www.npc-spud.com

### Jan. 11-13, 2004

Potato Marketing Association of North America Winter Meeting, Gran Melia Beach & Spa Resort, Cancun, Mexico.  
Hosted by Potatoes New Brunswick. Contact: Kyla at 506-276-1820.

### Jan. 21-22, 2004

The 36th Annual Idaho State University Potato Conference, Student Union Building, Pocatello, ID. Contact Jim Hughes at 208-529-8376 or jhughes@uidaho.edu or visit extension.ag.uidaho.edu/district4/potato.html.

### Jan. 21-22, 2004

Eastern Idaho Ag Expo, Holt Arena, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID. Contact David Beale at 800-635-2274.

### Jan. 29-30, 2004

37th Annual Oregon Potato Conference, Gleneden Beach, OR., Willamette Valley Potato Growers Association.  
Contact Oregon Potato Commission at 503-731-3300.

### Feb 3-5, 2004

Washington State Potato Conference and Trade Show, Big Bend Community College and the Grant County Fairgrounds. Phone: 509-765-8845.

### Feb. 4-5, 2004

Potato Conference & Trade Show, 2004  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. Contact: Kyla Stewart at 506-276-1820 or  
Fax: 506-276-1828. E-mail: ctpotato@potatoesnb.com.

### Feb. 9-12, 2004

International Root & Tuber Symposium, International Society for Horticultural Science, New Zealand. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Nichols at m.nichols@massey.ac.nz.


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# Profitability Will Be Focus Of Convention

Cattle industry attention, leadership and expertise will meet in Arizona at the Phoenix Civic Plaza this January when the cattle industry holds its 2004 Convention & Trade Show. The event will run from January 28 to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pocketbook issues will be examined in an effort to enhance producers' profitability as part of the many educational and informational offerings at the event. The Cattlemen's College, a trade show, entertainment and networking await the more than 5,500 cattle industry participants expected in Phoenix.

The annual convention and trade show

will again be hosted by the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion & Research Board, NCBA, the American CattleWomen, Inc., National Cattlemen's Foundation and Cattle-Fax.

The convention will begin January 28<sup>th</sup> with Cattlemen's College, a series of education sessions sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. The sessions seek to keep cattlemen and women up-to-date on may changes going on within the industry.

Included are sessions about selling on a grid system, how to detect and control BVD among your herd, process verification, how to boost profitability and other subjects.

The Cattle-Fax Outlook Seminar, which

will look at trends, strategies and management opportunities for 2004 and beyond, is free with your paid registration to Cattlemen's College. Cowboy poet and humorist Baxter Black will entertain folks at the Cattlemen's College Luncheon, also free to those registered for Cattlemen's College.

The Opening General Session, sponsored by Fort Dodge Animal Health, features speaker Gene Kranz, leader of the team of flight directors who brought the Apollo 13 spaceship safely back to Earth in 1970. For information, call Conventions, 303-694-0305.

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## Proper Handling of Game Meat is Important From Field to Table

As hunters take to the field, it's important to follow safety precautions to ward off foodborne illness. Proper handling of game meat from the field to the table is important to avoid contaminating meat with foodborne pathogens during dressing, handling or transporting.

Temperature plays an important role in keeping game meat safe and preventing foodborne illness. When bacteria have favorable temperatures, they grow to numbers where some can cause illness.

As with any perishable meat or poultry, raw or undercooked game meat can contain harmful bacteria such as Salmonella of E. coli 0157:H7. These bacteria live in the intestinal tracts of game, livestock, poultry and other domestic warm-blooded animals, and cause illness in humans when eaten.

Bacteria grow most rapidly in the temperature zone, which is between 40 and 140 degrees.

This is why foods such as meat and poultry gradually spoil in the refrigerator. Properly handled game meat or birds will always be safe stored in a freezer at zero degrees. However, once thawed, bacteria can again reach levels that may lead to foodborne illness.

When cooking game meat and birds, be sure meat reaches safe internal temperatures of 160-212 degrees in order to destroy bacteria. Set the oven temperature no lower than 325 degrees and cook ground meats to internal temperatures of 165 degrees. Steaks and roasts cooked to an internal temperature of 145 are medium rare, 160 are medium and 170 are well done. A whole game bird should reach 180 degrees.

If raw game meat and birds have been processed and handled safely, they should be safe to eat.

However, if the raw meat was mishandled, bacteria may grow and produce toxins that can cause foodborne illness. Cooking does not destroy those toxins.

Contamination of game usually is related to the manner in which the animal or bird was wounded, dressed, handled or processed.

For more information on proper field dressing, handling and processing, consult a local NU Cooperative Extension office or these Penn State University publications: Proper Field Dressing and Handling of Wild Game and Fish, available online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/uk071.html>, and Proper Processing of Wild Game and Fish, available online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/uk072.html>.

## New Cheeseburger Fries Introduced

Cheeseburger Fries are the new snack food item, developed using beef checkoff funds to sweep America. The product represents an untapped opportunity to provide beef lovers with another way to enjoy beef. Capitalizing on the huge cheeseburger market, and consumer demand for more portable food options, the industry has produced Cheeseburger Fries, a tasty combination of ground beef and cheese in a French-fry-shape with a crispy coating. It has been described as a cross between a chicken nugget and a cheese stick, capable of being served with a variety of menu applications in a variety of flavors and shapes.

## Beef Exports Are Up This Year

The U.S. continues to be a net exporter of beef and veal products (on a tonnage basis). U.S. beef and veal export tonnage is three percent larger than 2002 levels. U.S. beef exports continue to substitute for Canadian products banned from world markets.

Of the major trading partners, only exports to Korea and Mexico showed significant year-to-year increases, up nineteen and three percent from a year ago.

Imports of beef and veal have been down from last year due to tight restrictions on Canadian beef. The U.S. imported more beef from New Zealand (up 33 percent) and Mexico (25 percent).

On a tonnage basis, the U.S. was a net exporter of beef in June, July, and August. That trend could continue, but given the recent rise in wholesale beef prices, U.S. beef sales more than likely declined this past fall, leading to the U.S. being a net importer of beef during the remainder of 2003.

## Road Boss Grader

Learn how a simple but revolutionary spreading and grading implement can out perform large motorized graders. The Road Boss is elegantly simple. It consists of two forward-cutting blades mounted on a strong high grade steel frame with runners and side pans. An A-frame hitch mounts it to any three point hitch tractor of 25 or more horsepower.

Its dual blade and side pan configuration work to maximum advantage. The Road Boss virtually eliminates corrugating or washboarding of the road surface. It leaves no wind rows.

**BLADE ACTION:** The dual blades churn and sift road material, producing a "boiling" action that deposits finer material in lower layers, leaving coarser material on the surface.

**RESULTS:** The result is better leveling, smoothing and filling with absolutely no wind rows or piling, and better performance on compaction tests. Roadways are left in better condition so they need less maintenance in the future.

**RECYCLING:** Conventional motor graders use their power to push grade materials before them, often moving materials for some distance while creating piles, pot holes and wind rows in the process. The Road Boss Grader however, operates more like a recycler: turning, mixing, shifting and leveling the material in place.

**SPEED AND EFFICIENCY:** The Road Boss Grader performs faster, more efficiently and more economically -- using less power and less fuel because the blades are being pulled through the material, rather than pushing the material forward. The Road Boss is also easily transportable to and from work sites.

The Road Boss Grader is virtually maintenance free, and designed and built to last a lifetime. There are no moving parts, no lubrication points and no hydraulic fluids. Telephone: 800-736-5309, FAX: 972-939-2677, E-Mail: sales@roadboss.org

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## Engine Preheater

"Our new 'peel and stick' engine preheater attaches to the bottom of your vehicles oil pan and converts the housing into a heat transfer element. It warms the oil to operating temperatures making cold starts easy," says Hugh Goulding, E TIP, Inc., noting that the device can also be used on gearboxes, transfer cases, and even bulk oil tanks. The new preheater plugs into any 110 or 220-volt outlet and consists of a thin silicone fiberglass pad containing a metal grid. To install it, you clean an area on the bottom of the oil pan and press the pad onto it, then use silicone the seal the edges of the pad and place a flexible ceramic insulation pad over it. Available in several models depending on the lube capacity. A 50-watt unit sells for \$45. A 900-watt unit sells for \$83. We design for specific needs.

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# History of the Potato

The potato crop belongs to a number of American crops like maize and bean that have been introduced to Europe and other continents in the last 5 centuries.

There are more than 160 wild potato species, and most of them contain high levels of alkaloids. The first edible potatoes are considered to have been cultivated 4000 years ago in Peru. The South American Indians were in fact able to select alkaloid-free potato varieties, the results of which is still seen today.

The first cultivated potato species were diploid (some of them are still cultivated in South America). The development of the modern varieties was related to the spontaneous occurrence of tetraploid species that were superior in yield. Almost all current varieties are autotetraploid.

The introduction of potatoes to Europe happened at two independent instances: around 1570 in Spain, and around 1590 in England. However, the large-scale

cultivation of the crop began only in the beginning of the 19th century. Initially, the crop was used as a medicinal plant and grown by pharmacists, in Spain in particular. It was later introduced to other parts of Europe by merchants and kings, who encouraged the cultivation of this efficient plant to increase local agricultural production. The successful introduction of this new crop did not only require changes in the dietary habits of the people, but also a biological adaptation of the crop to a new climate. In fact, the potato plant being originally adapted to short day conditions of the tropical highlands, it would yield very little under the long summer days in Europe. Breeding over more than 150 years led to plants tolerating long day conditions. The modern breeding of potatoes began approximately in 1780, where crossings were performed between local varieties. At the beginning of the 19th




century, the introduction of new potato germplasm, especially from Chile, contributed highly to the breeding of modern varieties. Towards the end of the last century, there was already a large array of breeding varieties available to the breeders. However, because of the need for new resistance genes against pests and diseases, the 20th century brought about the use of a large population of wild- and cultivated potato species from South America for backcrossings into European varieties. The potatoes of today in Europe are largely the result of the intensive breeding programs of the 19th century, but have benefitted greatly from the improvements in breeding techniques of the 20th century to improve traits like disease resistance, tolerance to environmental factors, etc.

## Cub Farms


CUB FARMS for years has been growing hay and corn silage mainly for dairies, although we also sell hay to horsemen and cattle farmers. We do custom work for other farmers—discing, plowing, and planting. We custom chop haylage triticale and corn. We have a Corn Cracker on our chopper; a feature that the dairymen say makes the silage better. Together with our son Rick (NADING FARMS), we have a total of 8 trucks which are kept busy spring and winter hauling manure. Then in the fall, they are VERY busy trying to keep up with our Class Chopper—which can fill a truck in 2 minutes! We are kept pretty busy most of the year! WHAT is that thing they call “VACATION” ??

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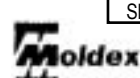
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## Washington Potatoes Donated to Spokane Charities

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell is partnering with the Washington Potato Foundation, the Women and Children's Free Restaurant, Second Harvest Foodbank and other Spokane charitable organizations to provide needed potato products for their meal programs.

"These potatoes will be critical in helping Spokane charity meal providers meet their food needs," Cantwell said. "While I want to continue work-

ing to spur the economy and help working families out of the clutches of poverty, we need to be sure that those in need have the food that is critical to their survival."

The Cantwell/Washington Potato Foundation donation will total 4,000 pounds of potato products. The products will be distributed to at least five Spokane area charitable organizations.

The Washington Potato Foundation is

the charitable arm of the Washington State Potato Commission. The Foundation makes donations of various potato products in eastern Washington and throughout the state.

The Women and Children's Free Restaurant will serve nearly 10,000 meals to women and children in Spokane's West Central Neighborhood. Their portion of the donation will provide enough potatoes to meet their meal needs for the next year.

## Rio Hondo Livestock & Farrier Supply

Rio Hondo is family owned and managed by Richard and Lynn Brook. Rio Hondo is Spanish for the "deep creek" running through the Brooks' ranch situated in the Snake River Valley of southern Idaho, 4.5 miles west of Buhl, along Scenic Highway 30. The Brooks have been in the ranching and farrier business for 35 years, having complete knowledge and expertise pertaining to the horse shoeing industry including distinctive brand name tools and supplies. They also include their son and daughter, Rick and Surya in the daily operation of the business emphasizing friendly service and customer satisfaction.

The Brooks' thorough knowledge and experience in cattle ranching has prompted them to offer consumers Hi-Hog, "The Outstanding Brand" in farm and ranch livestock handling equipment. Rio Hondo will be the only provider of Hi-Hog equipment in Idaho. An "onsite" equipment display offers consumers a "no obligation" demonstration with the opportunity to check out the high quality and ease of handling this exclusive equipment offers.

Rio Hondo would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their support and patronage. We appreciate your business, and look forward to supplying your needs in the future.

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## Group: EPA Didn't Thoroughly Study Atrazine, Cancer Link

**A**ctivists want a judge to force the Environmental Protection Agency to thoroughly study the health effects of atrazine, a common weed killer.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, a Washington based environmental group, filed a motion with U.S. District Court in San Francisco arguing that the agency failed to comply with a court order requiring it to look at the link between atrazine and cancer. The order was issued two years ago.

"Europe has decided to get rid of this stuff and here in the U.S., the EPA is refusing to take a new look at all the data that show atrazine is linked to several types of cancer," said Erik Olson, an attorney for NRDC. EPA officials said they will review the complaint.

The EPA was required to file a review of all the health effects by Oct. 31, but the agency said it would focus on the link between the chemical and prostate cancer. The EPA said in July that studies so far are not showing a connection.

Atrazine may also be linked to another form of cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The weed killer is commonly used in North America. Farmers spray it on fields of corn, soybeans and sugarcane to fend off weeds. Road crews and golf course managers also use it. Studies have found it in rainwater, snow runoff and drinking water sources.

The European Union has said it may ban atrazine because of the health concerns. Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden already prohibit it.

## MALIBU WATER RESOURCES • *Farm Pond Care In Simple Terms*

By Dr. Mervin Brown

**P**ond aeration improves water quality by maintaining good dissolved oxygen levels in the water especially where oxygen is really needed... at the bottom. Pond and lake bed aeration adds oxygen to all of the water, including the bottom. This is very important because once the lake or pond has oxygen near the bottom, new insect larvae, snails, and other fish food can begin to live there.

Bottom aeration is simply using an air compressing windmill or an electric aerator to pump through an air line attached to an aeration stone which is then placed on the bottom of the pond. The rising air bubbles from the aeration stone release oxygen in the water and brings oxygen-poor bottom water to the surface where it is exposed to the atmosphere. Thus, large volumes of water brought to the surface by the rising air bubbles lose poisonous gasses to the atmosphere and pick up more oxygen while on the surface. Aeration speeds up the process of oxidizing or burning up the pollution in the water. The result is fresh, sparkling clear, sweet-smelling water which supports abundant fish life, free from excessive algae and weeds.

**REDUCE ALGAE** - Aeration reduces algae growth by removing its food (nutrients) - Nitrogen, ammonia, and soluble phosphates are driven into the surface air and out of the pond. Iron and manganese are oxidized and drop out of solution to the bottom of the pond. Once oxidation of these metals begin, they

don't go back into solution. Aeration increases aerobic bacteria which eat the other nutrients on which algae and weeds need to grow. The aerobic bacteria eat these nutrients before the weeds and the algae can... forcing it to starve and die.

Aerobic bacteria are the good guys: They breathe oxygen and exhale CO<sub>2</sub> like us. They have a TREMENDOUS appetite...eating anything organic... very quickly. The aerobic bacteria begin to eat the organic sediment at the bottom of the pond... and will continue to eat it as long as they are given oxygen.

Aeration also works for de-icing a winter pond. Moving water won't freeze so there remains a 20' diameter of ice free water above the air stone. The more aeration in the winter, the less algae in the summer.

For windmills, we recommend a 12 foot tower. Tower leg extensions of four foot are available making a 16 foot and 20 foot tower if needed.

**Aeration Stone:** We recommend that you put some gravel in the bottom of a five gallon bucket, and place the aeration stone on top of the gravel. Attach a cord **and float** securely to the bucket and lower the aeration stone and the bucket into the water. Use the cord/float for retrieval and repositioning if needed.

**AERATION** in well water storage tanks removes iron, manganese, zinc and other metals through oxidation and precipitation. Metals are oxidized and drop out of suspension because they become heavier. **AERATION** removes sulfur and other poisonous gases (methane, ammonia, nitrogen) by phase distribution. SO<sub>2</sub> and other gasses are more soluble in air than water so are transferred to the rising air bubbles and then to the atmosphere via a tank vent. **AERATION:** removes hydrogen sulfide and anaerobic bacteria which produces methane. **AERATION:** leaves all beneficial minerals intact - removes only metals, phosphates and gasses.

For more information, contact Malibu Water Resources, 800-490-9170; Fax: 310-457-4298; www.MalibuWater.com

Recommended Pond Books:

Earth Ponds by Tim Matson: 802-333-9019

Ohio Pond Guide: 614-265-6300

**Pond Aeration Windmills**  
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**Malibu Water Resources**  
**www.MalibuWater.com**  
**1-800-490-9170**

## MANAGE FARM STRESS TO STAY SAFE

Farmers cope with more job stress than the average worker. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports that farming is one of the 10 most stressful occupations and one of the most dangerous occupations - with an accident rate second only to mining.

The combination of stress and daily work around powerful machinery and/or large animals in varying and unpredictable situations can lead to accidents. The most effective way to counter farm stress is to recognize that some events can be stressful and to plan ways to deal with those stressors effectively - before symptoms become severe.

Stress can manifest itself as physical

symptoms such as headaches or stomach problems, or as emotional symptoms through angry outbursts or depression. In most people, stress affects relationships with others and is often first noticed by someone other than the person experiencing it. Stress can also lead to action or behavior that results in a farm accident.

Research shows that even under similar circumstances, farmers react differently to the amount of stress they experience, Slocombe said. This is because some farmers develop more effective coping strategies than others.

Stress levels among farmers may increase farm accidents.

Tips for managing stress:

- Recognize your personal symptoms

and make a conscious decision to do something about them.

- Eat nutritious foods daily. Just as machinery needs quality fuel, our bodies need nutritious food to function properly.
- Keep machinery and equipment in good working condition. Elimination potential breakdowns can minimize stressful events.
- Talk about your stress with family or a close friend.
- Do something relaxing every day - even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Exercise. Farmers get a lot of exercise, but it's not always vigorous enough. Try to do some type of aerobic exercise at least three times a week.

## Visser Farms Maintains High Standards

Visser Farms had its humble beginning in the early 1960's by growing table potatoes. They were sold at local farmer's markets and door to door. In the early 1980's, Visser Farms began growing seed potatoes for the United States. They have since expanded their market to include Mexico and Thailand. Paul Visser, a third generation potato grower, with his wife Tricia purchased Visser Farms in 1999.

Clean seed begins from laboratory pure minitubers. To ensure a quality product, Visser Farms grows its own minitubers on site in greenhouses. On 650 acres, Visser Farms currently grows twelve varieties of quality certified seed potatoes. These include: Red Norland, Russet Burbank., Russet Norkotah, Nordonna, Atlantic, Banana, Ida Rose, Cal Red, Russian Blue, Yukon Gold and Bintje. The majority of the potatoes are sold at the Elite III stage.

Visser Farms prides itself on maintaining the highest standards in production, storage and field practices. They are able to store 7,000 tons of potatoes under optimum conditions. Their state of the art storage facility controls temperature, ventilation and humidity that enable them to lessen shrinkage on their crops. The entire facility is lined with cedar that also helps absorb excess moisture. The higher generation potatoes are all stored in individual wooden boxes.

These storage boxes allow for maximum airflow and ensure varieties will not be mixed. Loading the potatoes indoors in their large loading area which allows them flexibility during the shipping months, eliminates weather stress.

Visser Farms is located along the North Saskatchewan River in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This location is optimum for seed potato production. The area is made up of number one soil, and the North Saskatchewan River allows for irrigation. This area is also known for its "Northern Vigor" long summer days and very cold winters resulting in more productive, disease free potatoes.

Paul Visser is always searching for the latest developments in field management and potato fertility. Paul has traveled and worked on potato farms around the world learning and incorporating new and innovative ideas. Soil samples are done every fall and decisions are made concerning what levels of fertilizer will produce the best quality and

vigorous crop. Herbicides, pesticides and fungicides are also incorporated into the growing program to ensure best results. Visser Farms eliminates any possibility of bruising by using specially designed equipment which reduces stress and damage that can occur from handling.

Visser Farms continues to provide quality products and service for their customers.

For more information contact Paul Visser, RR #6, Box 171A, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5B 4K3, phone 1-780-472-6127; fax 1-780 472-6032; e-mail, info@visserfarms.com.

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## Washington And Idaho Approve Irrigation Application

The Washington and Idaho Departments of Agriculture granted several months ago a 24© registration for AM-VAC Chemical Corporation's Blocker4F soil fungicide for use through sprinkler irrigation systems to control white mold in potatoes.

The registrations establish a shorter pre-harvest application interval. Growers in the two states can now make up to three irrigation applications of the product at three to ten pints per acre up to 45 days before harvest. The registration allows up to two applications of the product at three to five pints per acre up to 20 days before harvest, according to a recent release.

Always read and follow current label directions. For more information, visit [www.amvac-chemical.com](http://www.amvac-chemical.com).

### Free Poster Showcases Potato Varieties

The Washington State Potato Commission has created a unique and informative poster-sized chart of the many different potato varieties grown in the state. The 11 x 17 inch coated poster, printed on both sides on heavy stock, gives the variety name, its characteristics, best preparation methods and a color photograph for easy identification.

Included are five russet varieties, two whites, three yellows, five reds, blue/purple and two fingerlings. Designed for easy reference, the poster is an excellent guide for the consumer and an important tool for food service and chef trainer as well as restaurant.

Copies of the poster are available at no charge from the Washington State Potato Commission, 108 Interlake Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837, phone 509-765-8845 or e-mail [kbonaudi@potatoes.com](mailto:kbonaudi@potatoes.com).

The WSPC has also created an all-inclusive booklet, The Spud Syllabus, covering the many benefits of Washington potatoes, complete information on the six groups of potato varieties and photos of each of the basic preparation methods, as well as of finished products for each preparation method. Copies of the 8-1/2 x 11 inch, 12-page syllabus are also available from the WSPC.

### Teton Seed Marketing Assoc.

Teton Seed Marketing Association was formed in 1996 by Teton Basin Potato Seed Growers. The office was established in 1997 in Teton, the center of Teton Basin. Fred Dormaier has been the marketing director since 2001.

The association, also known as TSMA, currently has six grower members who plant over 4,400 acres of seed potatoes. Members are Bruce Arnold Farm, Dennie Arnold Farms, Penfold Farms, Ehco Ranch, Bott Land and Teton Rainbow Ranch. The largest variety is Russet Burbank but many other varieties are grown.

You can reach the association by calling the office at 208-456-0904 or emailing them at [tetonseed@pdt.net](mailto:tetonseed@pdt.net). The address is:

Teton Seed Marketing Association, PO Box 155, Teton, ID 83452

## KARAM MANUFACTURING

The PHASE-0-MATIC rotary converter is a low cost method of producing three-phase power from a single phase line. The converter, resembling an electric motor, is designed to operate as a three-phase distribution system for farms, factories, or any other small business where three-phase power is needed and only a single phase line is available; The PHASE-0-MATIC is capable of operating an indefinite number of motors at full power from a single converter, which differs from static converters, that are restricted to operating a single motor at 60% power. The PHASE-0-MATIC can operate a single motor, or numerous motors, individually, concurrently, intermittently, or continuously as though connected to a three-phase line. PHASE-0-MATIC permits a combination of motors to vary in horsepower, motor speed, duty cycle, instant reverse, and be started and stopped frequently with no effect on the converter. The maximum size of a given motor is limited to the horsepower rating of the converter, The TOTAL HORSEPOWER LOAD should not exceed 2-times the converter rating. There are exceptions, where-high speed (3450 RPM) motors, or squirrel cage fans are used. For our suggestions on the preceding, please advise us on horsepower, RPM, amperage, and what the motor will operate. Converters of 230 volts or 460 volts, 60 cycle in ratings from 3 to 100 horsepower are available.

PHASE-0-MATIC converters (Power Factor .96+) raise the power factor of the motor system, thereby lowering the effect of starting. Amperage is reduced with the efficiency rotor, bringing three-phase motors up to speed with only a slight voltage drop. The starting KVA of a three-phase motor connected to a PHASE-0-MATIC is about 30 less than the same motor operating on solid three-phase. It has been observed that up to 50 HP motors on a medium loaded single phase, 7200 volt line, created virtually no flicker or disturbance.

To summarize, PHASE-0-MATIC enables you to operate as many three-phase motors as desired with the highest performance and efficiency expected from a direct three-phase line with less expense, a minimum of maintenance, and no adjustment or regulation.

Warranty will be one year from date of purchase unless stated otherwise.

Phase-0-Matic™ Rotary Phase Converters are sold through dealers nationwide. For more information contact KARAM Mfg. at 1944 70th St. in Fairmont MN 56031 at 800-293-8969.

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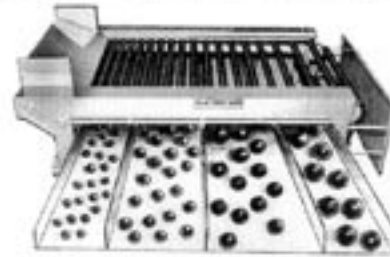
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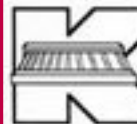
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## Veterinary Pet Insurance Incentive

As employees are taking on heavier workloads and working longer days, more companies are seeking innovative ways to provide incentives and keep employee retention rates high. One voluntary employee benefit that continues to grow in popularity is health insurance for pets. The Weather Channel recently started offering Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI) plans to its employees, joining the ranks of hundreds of other companies including GMAC, Navy Federal Credit Union and Chipotle Mexican Grill to offer this benefit. For more information about VPI policies, call 800-USA-PETS (800-872-7387) or visit [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)

## NCBA's Tax Work Can Save You Money

Those of us who have not done our year end tax planning yet should start thinking about it. We should all probably do more year-end planning this year because the new tax law, in effect this year and known as the Jobs & Growth Tax Relief Act of 2003, allows farmers to write off additional amounts against income, thus substantially lowering the tax obligation. This is of particular benefit this year with cattle prices greatly improved.

Your NCBA Washington staff and members worked hard to get these and

other tax benefits written into the new law. Two areas of change that you could take advantage of immediately:

1. Before, you could expense the first \$25,000 as an expense for an item the year it was purchased. That has been raised to \$100,000 for the years 2003 through 2006.

2. The other new provision raised the first year depreciation deduction to 50 percent for this year.

These changes allow some of that extra profit to go toward upgrading your operation or paying off debt rather than paying it in taxes.

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When you hear Auger flighting, most of you think of Egbers. We're very proud that we're so well known by our customers, "Says Doug Egbers, owner of Egbers Flighting & Supply." The Egbers family has been involved in the Auger and Agricultural Repair business since 1974." Doug and Laura Egbers are the newest members to take on the family business. In January, 2003 Egbers Farms Inc. was purchased and Egbers Flighting & Supply was set in place.

Egbers still offers a wide variety of auger flighting and recently they opened up their other stock items for resale. "In the past, we did not heavily advertise our stock of tube, shaft and auger accessories. There are so many companies that require minimum orders, we opened our stock items to better accommodate our customers," says Laura Egbers. Egbers has no minimum order requirements.

Also new with Egbers is their 20 ft. balancing machine. They have found a better-finished product when unloading augers are balanced. "We can take most of the vibration out these unloading augers," Doug Egbers says. The faster the auger runs the greater the need for the auger to be balanced. "We have customers drive from all over just to balance their grain cart augers."

Along with their many stock items, Egbers accommodates their customers by shipping complete augers. "We have a lot of talent in our company, and we like the variety of projects that we do," says Doug Egbers. "We've worked on augers as small as 2" in diameter for corn burners and 24" in diameter for a rock quarry.

Walking into their inventory shed, you see rows and rows of auger flighting. Around 1200 sizes are on hand at all times. 90% of these sizes are the 'Super Edge' Auger Flighting. Egbers possesses a talent for size and application. Just call on their sales staff and they can fit about any application you have for your combine, grain cart, transport auger and more.

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# Gates Begins Crop Initiative

A collaborative effort to get more nutritious food to the world's poor received a \$25 million boost from a foundation set up by Microsoft Corp. chairman, Bill Gates.

HarvestPlus, an alliance of research institutions and agencies, will use the money for a four year project on biofortification, which crossbreeds crops with high nutritional value and those that are high yielding and disease resistant, the organization's director, Howarth Bouis said.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said the goal of the initiative is to provide people in poor and developing countries with food already fortified with vitamins and mineral nutrients.

Worldwide, "Half the instances of death among children have malnutrition as an important contributory cause," said Dr. David Fleming, director of the foundation's global health program. HarvestPlus offers a strategic approach that would address the problem of malnutrition, he said.

## Natural Extracts Found To Provide Antioxidant Qualities To Beef

Two dietary supplements have been found to provide the same antioxidant qualities in meat as they would if taken directly into the human body.

"We know that antioxidants work in the body, but no one has looked at how they work in foods," said Ingolf Gruen, associate professor of food science at the University of Missouri. "Sure enough, they did a wonderful job".

Researchers studied the grape seed extract ActiVin and pine bark extract Pycnogenol. Their performance was compared to that of rosemary and synthetic antioxidants BHA and BHT, which are placed in meats by commercial processors to prevent oxidation.

Mixing these natural extracts in powdered form with hamburger prevented oxidation during and after cooking when the meat was stored, he said. Oxidation is what gives cooked meat so called "off flavors" when frozen or refrigerated.

Antioxidants are a classification of several organic substances thought to be effective in helping prevent cancer, heart disease and strokes.

They are said to deactivate certain particles call free radicals. When found in excess in the human body, free radicals can produce harmful oxidation that can damage cell membranes and cell contents.

The two extracts were also shown to have some abilities to combat bacterial growth such as E. coli and salmonella in meat, said Juhee Ahn, post-doctoral student in food science.

While the reduction of microorganisms was relatively small compared to that of strong antibacterial chemicals, the natural extracts did show a measurable antibacterial effect on the meat, he said.

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## Can't Find Your Ag Teacher? This Directory Can Help

As National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case stated, "The use of information is power". Agricultural educators now have a wealth of information at their fingertips available in the 2004 Agricultural Educators Directory.

The 2004 Agricultural Educators Directory was created by Agricultural Resources and Communications Inc. in Belvue, KS. More than 12,000 listings, including addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of agricultural educators are included in the directory from all of

the 50 states.

The directory is available in three formats, including an actual printed book, a CD and an online version that can be found at [www.agresources.com](http://www.agresources.com) in the near future. "Having three different versions of the directory causes it to be unique from similar directories created in the past," Wilson stated. "Advisors now have the option of how they would like to access the information".

National FFA Advisors and agricultural educators may stop by the Agricultural Resources and Communications Inc.

display booth in the FFA Career Show to receive a free CD version of the directory. Approximately 20 businesses and organizations sponsored the directory to allow agricultural educators to receive a copy of the directory free of charge.

Wilson believes that the directory should prove invaluable for agricultural educators across the nation. "Not only will current agricultural educators be able to use the directory for networking, sharing ideas and traveling, it will aid prospective agricultural educators with their search for agricultural educator positions".

## Sub-Zero Heating • Stainless Steel Stoves - quality, efficiency, design

The Sub-Zero stove is a unique heating system —built for the person who wants to burn wood, but who doesn't want the smoke, wood ashes and mess in the house. And, most of all, who doesn't want the worry of any fire danger in the home. This system can pay for itself in about two years or less!

The Sub-Zero stove is unique in the fact that it can heat your buildings from the outside in the yard. The Sub-Zero stove is a hot water system, which is capable of hooking up to either a hot water or hot air system in your home. By setting your furnace in a convenient area and" running water lines to your buildings, you only need to put wood in one stove

because the furnace is capable of heating more than one building. It can sit anywhere from 30 to 300 feet, from your buildings. The Sub-Zero stove ends the nuisance of baby sitting a wood stove. For most homes, you only have to wood the stove once a day. If you are going to be gone a couple days, fill the firebox full and it will keep things warm for you (length of time depends on heat load). The Sub-Zero stove also saves you money by heating all your domestic hot water free, with a unit that comes with your stove.

A very important feature of the Sub-Zero stove (especially to insurance companies) is that it has been laboratory tested and approved, which many on the market cannot say about themselves.

The Sub-Zero stove is built with safety as a main factor. Some of its features are: an all-steel unit with fiberglass insulation; a natural draft door that can maintain temperature without any blowers to cause problems, such as blowing sparks out the chimney that may start fires, blower freezing up in cold weather, and a high percentage of your heat being blown out the chimney; an insulated door so you don't need water on the door with hoses that can crack or break and spray you with hot water. The Sub-Zero stove is also a zero-pressure system, which eliminates any danger of blowups.

Environmentally Friendly:

Home: Although the concept of outdoor heating units goes back hundreds of years, the idea of "in the yard hot water heating systems" is comparatively new.

The Sub-Zero stove has met with favored approval from many who wish for the warmth and cost saving qualities of burning wood. And with no fire danger, smoke or wood mess in the home, your living environment is cleaner and safer.

Earth: With all the pollution problems in the world these days, we want to be helpful and friendly to our earthly environment. The Sub-Zero stove is actually a weapon against the green house effect. The wood burned by this unit releases no more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than if the trees had been allowed to rot — only this way you gain the energy benefits from it. If the trees burned in our stoves are replaced in equal quantities, the new trees will absorb 10 to 20 times as much carbon dioxide as they produced when burning. And, because of the design, the Sub-Zero stove burns less wood than others, so there is a lot less smoke in the atmosphere.

Nation: With all the current rules and regulations, it's nice to know that the Sub-Zero stove has been tested, approved, listed, and bears the PFS Seal of Distinction. Tested to U.L and CSA, this stove meets the recognized safety and quality control standards of the U.S. and Canada. It also meets requirements of HUD and WHEDA. This is a proven product line with thousands of stoves in service throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Oregon, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Manitoba and Ontario, to mention a few. For more information call 1-866-591-2027.

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# Senate Bans Downed Animals for Food

Recently, the Senate moved to ban the human consumption of “downed” animals, which are livestock too sick to stand or walk unassisted.

Se. Daniel Akaka, D-HI, who offered the amendment to an agriculture spending bill, said many of these animals are dying from infectious diseases and present a significant pathway for the spread of disease.

“My amendment prevents downed animals from being approved for consumption at our dinner tables,” he said.

The Agriculture Department estimates that 130,000 such downed animals are slaughtered every year. Farmers usually sell their sick and injured animals to meat renderers who grind them up into pet food and animal feed.

But Akaka said that meat and meat products from downed livestock can still be used for human consumption if the animals pass the inspection process. His amendment would bar the U.S. Department of Agriculture from spending money to approve downed animals for human consumption.

Beef producers have expressed concerns

that prohibiting the sale of downed animals will result in having to find other ways to dispose of sick livestock, most likely by burying them on their farms. They say this could threaten the health of other animals if the carcasses are infected with a contagious disease.

But Wayne Pacelle, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States, said the amendment was “an important animal protection and food safety measure.” He noted that the recent case of mad cow disease in Canada involved a downed cow.

## Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd.— Growing Top Quality Seed Potatoes

Formed in 1960 as an initiative for local growers to work together to market their product more effectively, Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd. today includes a group of twelve experienced seed growers marketing their seed potatoes internationally. Under strict Canadian regulations, we produce only the best quality seed potatoes and have been very successful in marketing to volume growers across Western Canada and the United States, including California, Idaho, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, North Dakota, Wisconsin, New York, Florida, Michigan and Missouri.

Famous for growing and marketing top quality seed potatoes, Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd. is a leader in the industry. EPG seed potatoes have proven themselves in many locations under different climatic conditions through vigor and yield. Most of the seed potatoes

are grown on dry land and in isolation, guaranteeing top quality.

Extensive testing and field inspection, accomplished in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada ensure our seed potatoes are disease-free and absolutely the best quality.

Northern climate conditions also assist the process since potential disease carrying aphids cannot winter here. As such, less chemical treatment is required, resulting in a much more “organic” seed potato.

In the case of seed potatoes, this northern advantage has a name—“northern vitality.” The name was coined as a result of research comparing performance of seed potatoes.

Many studies, including Washington State University and the University of Saskatchewan have indicated the advantage to “young” seed as well as disease-

free isolated growing areas.

Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd. Farms are located between the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> parallels. This area features a temperate climate with 24-hour growing days. Air humidity is dry by any standard and nights are cool. Irrigation is available for some fields, and land is managed for a three or four year rotation with grains and /or legumes. Winter cold is severe, killing all pathogens. These climatic influences create higher solids which in turn produce more energy and disease-free seed energized by northern vigor.

Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd. offers a wide variety of seed potatoes including white, red, and yellow flesh and several exotic varieties. For further information, please contact Darcy Olsen at 1-800-362-9791, 780-447-1860; Fax: 780-447-1899. E-mail at [darcy@epg.ab.ca](mailto:darcy@epg.ab.ca)

### Edmonton Potato Growers Ltd. Seed Potatoes

*Northern Vigor is attributed to: long days, cool nights, high altitude and Northern Latitude creating high specific gravity.*



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# Nick's Custom Boots, Now That's Value!

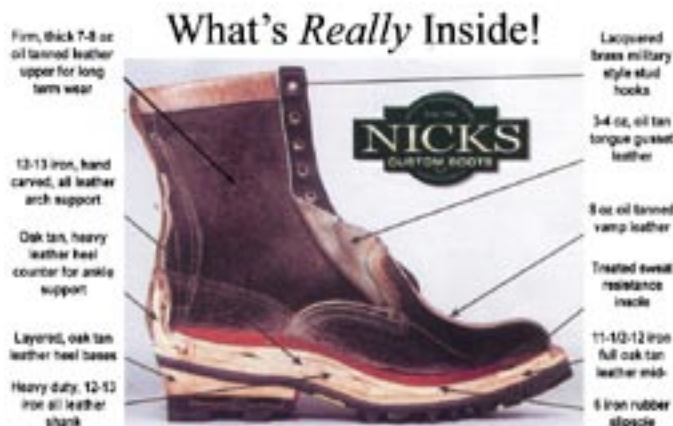
## What Makes These Boots So Unique?

Since the days of Nick Blahuczyn (Bla-hushun) until today, Nick's Boots has focused on one thing, and one thing alone . . . to hand-build top quality boots using only premium leathers, and time-tested, century-old craftsmanship techniques passed on from generation to generation. As thousands of Nick's customers nationwide, as well as around the world, can attest, once you've tried a pair Nick's handmade, one hundred percent leather boots, you'll never go back to mass-produced footwear again.

### The Legendary Arch

Many customers ask about the design of Nick's Boots, especially the strong arch support and heavy heel. Nick's Custom Boots are designed to closely simulate the natural form of the foot and to distribute body weight evenly among the heel, arch and ball of the foot. In a majority of people this feature helps minimize foot and leg fatigue as well as lower back pain attributable to inadequate foot support. Most mass-produced footwear does not have a true arch, thus, the body weight resides on the heel causing tiredness and pain in the middle to lower back, all the way down the legs including the feet. Your boots must be more than just foot covers. They must be strong enough to support your whole body, especially during strenuous work. When it comes to functionality, comfort and great looks, Nick's Boots has you covered!

### How Were You Fit



While reading this information, think back to the last time you purchased footwear. Did the store clerk merely ask you for your size or did they accurately measure both feet; not just one? A foot professional will recommend a certain style, height or sole based on the needs dictated by your particular lifestyle and environment. Too often a sale is based solely on current fashion trends and the customer simply tries on a number of sizes and styles until a 'cozy' feel is achieved, regardless of proper fit.

For years, people have suffered needless pain and endless frustration trying to fit mass-produced footwear around their bunions. Custom fitting remedies this condition by building a measured 'pocket' for the bunion to reside, effectively eliminating blisters, pain and inflammation.

### Fitting? Do I Need a Custom Fit?

Approximately 90% of Nick's customers are easily fit into a 'stock size'. Each pair of Nick's Boots is built to specific orthopedic measurements based on the length and width of

the foot. The hand-placed orthopedic shaped arch provides enormous benefit to the wearer.

Some folks however require a custom fit. This may include simple adjustments to the arch or require different sizes for each foot. In the retail store (and boot factory), Nick's professional fitters will actually make a drawing of each foot and measure both the feet and legs to create a uniquely customized pattern for the boot makers to follow. Most hard to fit foot problems such as heel spurs, bunions, a thick instep or a low or high arch can be remedied with a professional custom fit.

Prescriptions provided by a doctor or orthopedist, can usually be built into a pair of Nick's Custom Boots. A consultation is recommended with a Nick's representative.

All measurements from stock sizes to custom fitting patterns are kept on file making future orders a breeze for adjustments that may need to be made.

### History

Nick Blahuczyn lived the American Dream when he established Nick's Custom Boots in Spokane, Washington in 1964. Nick was a Russian who escaped from Stalin's army during World War II. He immigrated to the United States after the war and made his way to Washington State where he mastered his skills as a boot craftsman from a famous North West bootmaker.

### Lifestyle Designs for Work and Play

Nick's offers a variety of work, casual and dress boots to meet most every lifestyle and occupation. Working in adverse conditions from farming to firefighting calls for heavy-duty oil tanned leathers available in various colors. The same comfort and fit

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made famous in Nick's sturdy work boots is also available in casual and dress styles from the lightweight softy buffalo or a finely trimmed two-tone, to the exotic stingray or shark. Transforming a day of hard work into a night of dining and dancing is as easy as changing your footwear. Because of its comfort and styling, Nick's dress boot is a popular choice in the business community. And, Nick's is proud to supply it's highly popular Wildland Firefighting Boots to those who fight to protect our forests and wildland areas.

#### Nick's Tips for Break-In and Care of Your Boots

A boot should fit snugly all the way around the foot like a firm handshake, because after break-in the boot will stretch about a quarter inch from side to side. A boot that starts out 'cozy' will end up too sloppy and require extra socks or aftermarket liners to snug up the fit after the break-in period. Break-in takes roughly 80-100 hours of wearing your boots for your feet to adjust to the transition.

During this period, keep the exterior of the boot wet by spraying with a 50/50 mixture of rubbing alcohol and water. When the boots get overly tight or stiff wet them down and friction-rub with your hands as if polishing them. The alcohol allows the water to penetrate and soften the leather.

Does it work to fill the boot with water to speed up the break-in? Sure, but it's detrimental to the long-term health of the boot. The nails in the bottom of the boot begin to rust and will ultimately weaken the structure of the boot.

Keep the boot snugly laced. Its important that the boot be laced tightly over the instep and around the ankle, which allows the leather behind the anklebones to seat properly. Snug is good, snugger is better.

To prevent the infamous 'bite' on top of your instep, lace your boots in the 2-1-3 method as shown in the photo.

Get through the 80-100 hours with the alcohol and water break-in technique and then grease your boots. Avoid greasing the area around the brass hooks and eyes where softening the leather may cause them to pull out. Nick's HD products are recommended because they have no damaging ingredients in them. The pine tars, petroleum, silicones and animal fat in other products clog the pores of the leather which must breathe to allow the acid and salts in sweat to dissipate.

Nick's HD Leather Preservative and HD Boot Oil are so pure it keeps your footwear from becoming crusty, mildewed or foul smelling. It contains a mixture of beeswax and propolis, a natural and waterproofing antibacterial tree resin which provides a high level of protection to the leather, keeping it soft and supple, while resisting water as well as chemicals.

Sweat will slowly corrode the inner part of the boot. If you have not oiled and greased your boots regularly, it is important to neutralize the acid and salt caused by sweat. This is accomplished by pouring a mixture of one heaping tablespoon of baking soda and twenty ounces of water into each boot. After sloshing it around, wetting the interior, pour it out and let the boot dry.

#### Why Nick's Boots Last

A lot of folks complain that their [mass-produced] boots last only six to eighteen months. Because Nick's Boots

are handcrafted with only the finest quality leathers and expertly fit by professionals, with proper care you should receive years of service and support from your boots.

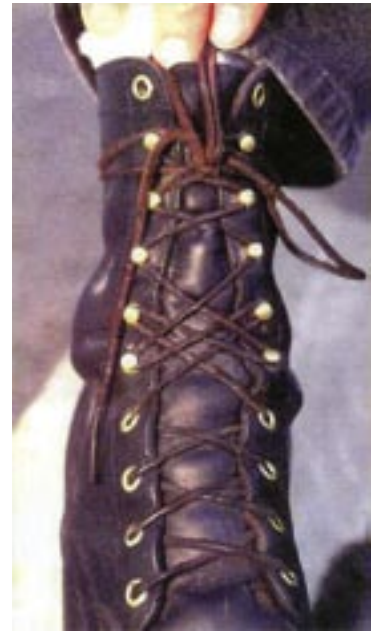
Most customers are able to have their boots resoled two to three times before being rebuilt. When it's time to rebuild, Nick's expert boot makers will replace everything but the portion of the boot that has formed to your ankle and the upper; very little of the original

boot remains. That's like getting a brand new pair of boots that are already broken in to fit your leg and ankle, and at about 50% of the cost of a new pair of boots. . .

Now that's value!

By Gary and Trudy Scott,

Contributions by Bill Rose and Tom Story



#### Testimonial:

*Thank you! I received my custom boots, of which I have worn every day since they arrived. The boots have been on a cattle roundup and helped process two fields of hay so far. I am very pleased at the quality, craftsmanship, and eye appeal of these boots. Thank you again.*

*Kevin Rood*

*Coos Bay, Oregon*

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## Sheep & Goat Industry Loans

National Livestock Producers Association (NLPA) Sheep and Goat Fund Committee recently announced the availability of loans at four percent interest projects aimed at improving the sheep and goat industries.

The fund is being used to benefit all sectors of the sheep and goat industries, with the sole exception of production

loans which are outside the scope of the loan program.

A 1999 agreement between the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center and NLPA enables the Sheep Center funds to be used in the sheep and goat industries. The agreement allows NLPA to maintain a revolving fund used exclusively for loans to the sheep and goat industries.

Currently, the NLPA Sheep & Goat Fund Committee has extended 32 loans to 26 entities in 17 states and has received 53 applications. More than \$6.9 million has been loaned to sheep and goat businesses, leaving about \$7 million still available for new applications.

For more information, contact the NLPA at 1-800-237-7193 or go to: [www.nlpa.org](http://www.nlpa.org).

## Air Flow Systems Inc. • *An Introduction to Pre-Cleaners*

There are many types and styles of engine pre-cleaners out there. There are three main types of pre-cleaners available, and each has its own benefits and drawbacks:

**Bowl-type:** The most economical class of pre-cleaner; they are about 50 percent efficient. But with prices increasing every year, it may be time to step up to a more efficient type of pre-cleaner.

**Aspirated-type:** The most efficient type of pre-cleaner, aspirated types require a connection to the exhaust system, so can be a bit trickier to set up. Medium cost. Medium weight.

**Spinner-type:** The most popular type of pre-cleaner, and for good reason. Easy to set up, high efficiency, nice appearance, and increases the resale value of the equipment. Uses a moving spinner to

help separate the dust from the airstream. Traditionally higher in price, but there are now some newer, less-expensive models available.

Let's break down the spinner-type pre-cleaners into four popular models:

**Turbo II:** Very popular. All metal, gloss black, best on light wheat chaff due to the large intake screen. High cost and weight, large size.

**Donaldson TopSpin:** The newest pre-cleaner on the market, the Donaldson TopSpin solves the problems with older designs. Same efficiency, but with smaller size, dramatically lower weight, and a much lower price. About the same size as a bowl-type.

**Centri:** Very attractive brushed aluminum, good on normal dust (not light chaff). Medium size. Medium weight.

Medium cost.

**Enginaire Composite:** Light weight, very low profile, black composite. Medium-low cost.

It depends on your situation and budget which one to choose. If you want the best value for the money, choose the Donaldson TopSpin. For a flashy look and a balance of size, weight, and cost, choose the Centri. For a very low profile and a medium-low cost, choose the Enginaire composite. If you want the best performance on light chaff, grapevine fuzz, etc., choose the Turbo II. And remember, at Air Flow Systems, we are your "Spin Doctors" WE STOCK THEM ALL! For more information, phone (509) 535-3687 or toll free 1-800-356-5432. Fax: (509) 534-9269. Website: [www.airflo.com](http://www.airflo.com)

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## FOOD IN THE MAIL - IS IT SAFE?

**S**urprise! You don't have to cook dinner tonight. No, it's not a pizza delivery. There's a gift package of food at your front door. Maybe it's smoked turkey or a ham from a friend. "Keep Refrigerated," the box reads. Uh, oh. It's been sitting in the sun. When did it arrive? Is it safe to eat?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Meat and Poultry Hotline cautions that the food gift you receive or send could give you an unwanted "surprise" foodborne illness, if it is not delivered promptly and handled properly. Mail order food companies take steps to produce a safe, high quality product and to maintain the safety and quality during shipping. "So it is important for consumers to handle the product safely once the perishable items are received," says Susan Conley, director of the Food Safety Education for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

There's a lot of sending going on. The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) says Americans this year will spend more than \$6 billion on food purchases by mail. "Catalogues and Web sites are convenient for holiday gift-giving since you can place the order, and have it delivered with just one phone call or online order," says Amy Blankenship, director of The DMA's Shop-At-Home information Center.

When receiving or sending meat, poultry

or other perishable foods, they should be shipped in an insulated box packed with frozen gel packs or dry ice. "Keep Refrigerated" should be on the package. Even if a product is smoked, cured and /or fully cooked, it is still perishable and must be kept cold. When received, the perishable food should either be frozen, have visible ice crystals, or feel refrigerated cold in the touch. If the food is not cold, notify the company. Do not eat it or even take a bite.

Homemade food gifts are often sent by mail during the holidays. Perishable foods should be shipped frozen gel packs or dry ice. Ideally the box should be wrapped in two layers of brown paper and mailed by the fastest shipping method possible.

For more information about the safety of food in the mail, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at 1-800-535-4555 or TTY - 800-256-7072, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time, Monday-Friday. Recorded messages are also available 24 hours a day by calling the same number. Consumer information is also available at the FSIS Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov).

For sources of reputable catalog and Internet food retailers, check the DMA's consumer. Web site at [www.shopthenet.org](http://www.shopthenet.org)

Food in the mail is a nice holiday surprise. Be sure its handled safely for gift-giving.

## USDA Announces Initiative To Donate Dry Milk

**A**griculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced recently that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will donate non-fat milk to non profit, faith-based and community organizations for use in meal services or for distribution to needy recipients. "Partnering with faith-based and community organizations to provide a healthy food staple builds on President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative", said Veneman. "This program will contribute to our efforts to meet nutritional requirements of those in need."


## Beef Nutrition In Schools

**D**uring the 2002-2003 school year, 1.6 million U.S. students learned about beef nutrition, food safety, and environmental stewardship thanks to the widespread distribution of teachers' resource materials by Beef Checkoff Program. School materials were distributed to teachers, reaching the 1.6 million students. Promoted through the checkoff "Teachfree" website ([www.teachfree.com](http://www.teachfree.com)) and state beef councils, the kits are made available to teachers of students from kindergarten through high school. Many of the education kits are free of charge to working teachers and include everything needed to integrate beef education into a lesson plan.

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## Clark, Jennings & Associates

**W**hen Clark Jennings established his company in eastern Washington in the 1950's the world was a much different place than it is today. A dollar was harder to come by, but it went farther. Technology and machines were not so far advanced. Labor was more intense. Farms and herds were smaller and families were larger. But with families working hard and neighbors pulling together, a lot was accomplished.

Clark, Jennings and Associates has made some changes over those 50 years. The firm has grown and modernized to keep pace with the needs of its customers. The company offers professional real estate sales, farm and orchard management, mortgages for homes and farms, and agricultural appraisal. With offices in Yakima and Pasco, Washington and Pendleton, Oregon, most of its customers' needs for these services can be fully met.

While Clark Jennings & Associates still maintains a decidedly agricultural bent, the obvious need to reach out to other sectors of the real estate industry has not been ignored. Increasing emphasis on residential and commercial sales and mortgages are apparent to anyone long familiar with the company. In addition, the geographic reach of the company is increasing steadily. In addition to the decades-old Oregon and Washington focus, new ventures are planned throughout the northern tier of Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota.

Yes, in this fast-paced world, change is inevitable. But some things don't change. Clark Jennings & Associates, as they have for fifty years, will continue to insist on straight talk, fair and honest dealing, and good value for their clients and customers. "Treat people the way you would want to be treated." It's a time tested principle that the people at Clark, Jennings and Associates refuse to depart from.

The welcome mat is out at Clark, Jennings and Associates. If you're looking to buy, sell, mortgage, or manage real estate, come on over and see what they have to offer — or check their web site — [www.clarkjennings.com](http://www.clarkjennings.com)

## New Zealand Lamb Numbers Decline

**A**ccording to Meat New Zealand, lamb numbers fell six percent over the past year to 31.15 million head, down from 33.09 million. Declining ewe numbers, lower consumption rates and poor breeding conditions have been blamed for the decrease. Given the decline in breeding ewes over the past few years, a fall in lamb numbers was expected in 2002/2003. However, drought, conditions earlier in the year, followed by cooler conditions, resulted in lamb numbers falling further than expected. Mark Jefferies, chief executive of Meat New Zealand stated, "With the colder conditions experienced this year, we would expect the lambing season to be extended. This will mean tighter supplies to our overseas markets prior to Christmas."

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## Angus Group Creates Selection Tools With Dollars In Mind

**B**eef producers today have access to a powerful list of genetic selection tools, primarily in the form of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). However, the wealth of information can become overwhelming when it's time to rank various herd sizes for numerous performance measures. Fortunately, the dynamics of multi-trait selection indexes as tools for commercial cow-calf operators and seedstock breeders are rapidly evolving for the beef industry. These tools, when used as part of a complete breeding system encompassing all production arenas, can combine a set of EPDs into targeted economic values.

As an answer to this call for dynamic performance indicators, the American Angus Association Board of Directors recently approved the release of new tools for commercial producers to add simplicity to genetic selection decisions. The American Angus Association Spring 2004 Sire Evaluation Report will include the release to Total Beef Value (\$B), the first in a suite of bio-economic values, expressed in dollars per head, to assist commercial beef producers. The \$B values will be in the printed version of the Sire Evaluation Report and may be viewed and sorted by accessing the Sire Evaluation Search page at [www.angus-siresearch.com](http://www.angus-siresearch.com). Further enhancements to this technology will include an interactive website, where users can define postweaning and carcass parameters to create tailored \$Values for their given scenario.

"Although carcass merit is an important component of the beef production chain, the Total Beef Value is not to be used as a single selection criterion, since it only combines postweaning and carcass industry segments," says Sally Dolezal, genetic research director for the Association. "The complete system of bio-economic values, or net merit system, will in the future also include comprehensive reproduction and weaned calf values."

\$B encompasses the dollar per head progeny difference in combined postweaning and carcass merit. The \$B value has two pieces: Feedlot Value (\$G). The values are calculated for animals with growth trait EPDs and end-product predictions (carcass EPDs, ultrasound EPDs, or both). The Feedlot Value (\$F) as-

signs a \$ per head difference in expected progeny performance to postweaning genetic merit. The Grid Value (\$G) combines quality grade and yield grade attributes, and is calculated for animals with carcass EPDs, ultrasound EPDs, or both types of EPDs. \$B facilitates what almost every beef breeder is already seeking simultaneous multi-trait genetic improvement for feedlot and carcass merit, based on dollars and cents.

Real-world economics of this \$Value concept are a powerful addition to the already sizeable list of 17 EPDs currently available through the American Angus Association. The \$Values were derived using available EPDs converted into economic terms using industry relevant components for feedlot performance (i.e. days on feed, ration cost, cash price, etc.) and carcass merit (i.e. choice-select spread, heavyweight and YG 4 & 5 discounts, etc.). These new tools provide commercial producers, along with seedstock breeders, an avenue to simplify the use of EPDs, evaluating feedlot and carcass separately or simultaneously.

Details on the \$B will be available online at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) during the release of the American Angus Association Spring 2004 Sire Evaluation Report. Questions can be directed to the American Angus Association Performance Programs Department at [ahir@angus.org](mailto:ahir@angus.org) or 816-383-5100.

The American Angus Association, with headquarters in St. Joseph, Missouri, is the world's largest beef breed organization, providing programs and services to thousands of commercial producers and more than 34,000 members nationwide.

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# The Great American Hamburger

Americans eat about 14 billion hamburgers a year. The hamburger fulfills all the necessary requirements for a meal; it's tasty, economical, convenient and nutritious.

The hamburger continues to be perceived as a high fat junk food. But lean ground beef actually provides 10 essential nutrients including protein, B vitamins, iron, and zinc while contributing 7.6 grams of fat and 139 calories. Whereas the same patty made with regular ground beef has 10.6 grams of fat and still all the essential nutrients.

The secret to keeping the hamburger lean is to avoid the high fat toppings such as

cheese, bacon, mayonnaise or other sauces. Instead, opt for ketchup, mustard, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, peppers and relishes.

The most important ingredient in a burger is the patty, which can range from ground turkey, chicken, pork, soybeans or other vegetables.

To begin cooking, heat a nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot (about 5 minutes). Do not add oil. The fat drippings from the meat will provide enough. Place the patties into the hot skillet. Cook each patty until centers are no longer pink and juices run clear. Hamburgers should be cooked to at least 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

Turn once halfway through cooking. Never smash patties while cooking. This pushes the moisture from the burger and results in a dry patty.

Remove patties to a large, clean plate lined with three layers of white, non-recycled paper towels. Let stand for a minute. Turn patties over after 30 seconds and blot. Serve on the bun of your choice.

Breads are at the base of the USDA Food Guide Pyramid. In fact, whole grain buns provide the most nutrients. It is best to eat six to eleven servings daily from this food group. Count an average hamburger bun as two servings.

## B&W CUSTOM TRUCK BEDS, INC

If you've pulled a gooseneck trailer, you know how frustrating the hitch ball can be when you're not using it. Every time you need to use your pickup for something besides pulling a trailer (which is mostly what pickups are for) the hitch ball is in the way! With B&W's Turnover Ball™ gooseneck hitch, you will never have that problem again.

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The patented Turnover Ball™ is a receiver tube assembly which simply bolts across the pickup truck frame under the pickup bed floor. To switch from a hitch ball to a level bed, just pull the spring loaded latch pin handle, which is conveniently located in the drivers' rear wheel well, and turn the ball over for storage in the receiver tube.

A 4" round hole cut in the bed floor is about the only modification to the pickup. Installation requires no welding, uses existing frame holes and is accomplished quickly and easily with the pickup bed in place. Clear installation instructions that are easy to follow are provided. Average installation time is about one hour.

To provide additional versatility for the Turnover Ball™ hitch, B&W offers five optional coupler styles. These optional couplers mount in the Turnover Ball™ receiver tube, letting you "hook up and pull" with a King Pin, an Inverted Ball, an Eyelet, a 3" Ball, or a 5th Wheel Hitch - in seconds!

B&W Custom Truck Beds, Inc. has expanded their innovative line of truck accessories with the release of the "COMPANION™" 5th wheel RV hitch. The new hitch offers a tow rating of 18,000 lbs., is designed to attach directly into the receiver tube of the Turnover Ball™ unit, with no additional holes, dampers, or fittings required. Thousands of trucks already equipped with B&W's gooseneck hitch can easily convert to the 5th wheel kingpin receiver unit in a matter of minutes.

Trucks not already equipped with the easily removable Turnover Ball™ will require its installation. The COMPANION™ hitch can be adjusted in four directions in order to adapt to various towing applications, and special shock absorbers increase side swivel stability.

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The COMPANION™ hitch and the Turnover Ball™ hitch are both available from B&W. Phone toll-free at (800) 248-6564 and B&W Authorized Dealers nationwide. Check out our website at [www.turnoverball.com](http://www.turnoverball.com).

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**M**errick's mission is to manufacture animal feed products and ingredients for a worldwide market, providing quality and service exceeding the expectations of our customers. Merrick's began selling dairy products to the feed industry in 1959. The experience and knowledge Merrick's brought to the industry helped establish the standards by which milk and fat products are judged today.

### Innovative Product Development

After pioneering in the manufacture of 60% and 80% dry high fat products, we expanded this line to include 100% fat for both dairy cow and swine rations. Merrick's was the first to develop and introduce many innovative products that optimize the survival and health of baby animals. In 1982 Merrick's expanded



to manufacture and market a full line of branded milk replacers for calves, baby pigs, foals, lambs and kids. Over the years we have developed innovative supplements, additives and electrolytes for all species.

### Milk Replacers . . . and So Much More!

Animal plasma in milk replacers was introduced into the market by Merrick's in 1989. In 1998 we developed a calf milk replacer formulated with spray dried animal blood cells. In the search to develop nutritionally advanced products for use in milk replacers, we test many alternative proteins. This testing resulted in the formulation of egg protein milk replacers for both Merrick's branded milk replacers and private label customers. In 1994 we developed a calf nursing bottle and a patented nipple featuring the first advance in calf nipple design in many years. That year Merrick's also entered the poultry feed industry with products to help producers maintain healthier animals.

### Research and Product Formulations

At Merrick's, research is a basic belief and an ongoing process. Research into all aspects of animal nutrition results in the development of innovative products and in our ability to offer products with a wide range of protein and fat sources. The manufacture of these products allows us to fulfill a variety of needs to help guarantee the survival and health of valuable animals. Merrick's qualified nutritionists can help determine which product formulations will best meet producers needs. We also market a wide range of ingredients for swine and dairy rations, in addition to dry fat, including whey, lactose, animal blood cells and plasma.

### Commitment

Merrick's is committed to develop, manufacture and market quality products. We maintain a high level of commitment to the individual needs and success of our customers and pro-

ducers. Merrick's technical staff is available to assist with any questions about our products and good animal management practices.

### Merrick's, Inc. Brands:

*Milk Replacers:* Centurion, Millennium, Cell Star, Winter Star, Super Star, Gold Star, Silver Star and Blue Star for Calves; Soweena Litter-Gro and Litter Life for Baby Pigs; Super Lamb and Super Kid; Grow-N-Glow for Foals

*Additives & Supplements:* Plas/Magic, Super Calf-Kit, Super Guard - Type B for Calves

*Electrolytes:* Blue Ribbon Electrolytes with Direct-Fed Microbials - for all species

*Poultry Vaccine Stabilizer:* Vacci-Guard

*Nursing Equipment:* Super-Calf Nipples & Bottles Super-Calf Oral Bottle Feeder


*Dry Fats:* Soweena 7-60/4-80 & Select 100 for Swine Rations; Dairy Ultra 100 for Lactating Cows

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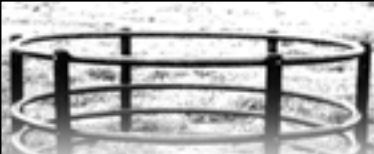
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## Natural Extracts Found To Provide Antioxidant Qualities To Beef

Two dietary supplements have been found to provide the same antioxidant qualities in meat as they would if taken directly into the human body.

“We know that antioxidants work in the body, but no one has looked at how they work in foods,” said Ingolf Gruen, associate professor of food science at the University of Missouri. “Sure enough, they did a wonderful job”.

Researchers studied the grape seed extract ActiVin and pine bark extract Pycnogenol. Their performance was compared to that of rosemary and synthetic antioxidants BHA and BHT, which are placed in meats by commercial processors to prevent oxidation.

Mixing these natural extracts in powdered form with hamburger prevented oxidation during and after cooking when the meat was stored, he said. Oxidation is what gives cooked meat so called “off flavors” when frozen or refrigerated.

Antioxidants are a classification of several organic substances thought to be effective in helping prevent cancer, heart disease and strokes.

They are said to deactivate certain particles call free radicals. When found in excess in the human body, free radicals can produce harmful oxidation that can damage cell membranes and cell contents.

The two extracts were also shown to have some abilities to combat bacterial growth such as E. coli and salmonella in meat , said Juhee Ahn, post-doctoral student in food science.

While the reduction of microorganisms was relatively small compared to that of strong antibacterial chemicals, the natural extracts did show a measurable antibacterial effect on the meat, he said.

## Darrin's Wigs & Accessories

Darrin's Wigs & Accessories mission is to provide you with the lightest, coolest and most comfortable lightweight styles with the look and feel of natural human hair. If your hair is thinning, or you just want a quick hair do or new look, there are many beautiful wig styles and hair pieces to choose from in many different lengths and rich, natural colors, and many may be purchased at half price. Chemo patients get \$10.00 off the first regular priced wig they buy and a free turban.

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## Spokane Ag *From Page 5*

will be featured in the Spokane Arena.

Keynote Speakers - Tuesday, Jan. 13, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., DoubleTree City Center Hotel. “Northwest Weather,” an annual Farm Forum favorite with Dr. Art Douglas. “The Australian Wheat Marketing System,” Nathan Brown, Australian Wheat Board, Ltd. Sponsored by the Washington Wheat Commission. Cost for main session speakers: \$8.00.

Congressman George Nethercutt - Wednesday, Jan. 14, 9:00 a.m., Ag Trade Center Theater, “Federal Farm Issues.” Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Panel Discussion: “The Global Marketplace – Issues Impacting NW Cattle Producers” - Thursday, Jan. 15, 9:00 a.m., Les Schwab Room, Spokane Arena. This panel will address issues affecting cattle producers, including BSE, COOL, free trade, and animal ID programs. The panel participants will provide many different perspectives. This is an opportunity to have an interactive discussion about issues you are dealing with in your operation. Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Panel Discussion: “Rural Economic Development” - Thursday, Jan. 15, 1:00 pm, Ag Trade Center Theater. A panel discussion will focus on shrinking rural communities in our area and the economic hardship that these communities face. Panel participants will provide information about resources available, strategies for growth, and anecdotes about what has been successful for other small communities. Cost is included in the Ag Expo ticket.

Show hours - January 13, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, January 14, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and January 15, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Cost - SPOKANE AG EXPO: \$9.00 for adults (includes free parking at the Arena), \$6.00 for youth (12-18 yrs) and children under 11 years are free. The Ag Expo pass is good for all three days of the show. FARM FORUM: \$8.00 for adults. Farm Forum tickets are for admission to the Tuesday events at the DoubleTree Hotel. All tickets can be purchased through the G&B ticket outlets at the Arena and Convention Center the week of the show.

For more information: [www.agshow.org](http://www.agshow.org)

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